Amendments to the Claims:

There are no current amendments to the claims. However, for the Examiner's convenient reference, the present claims are listed below.

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A three dimensional thermoplastic welding rod comprising:

a first layer formed from material comprising pigmented particles, the pigmented particles comprising a majority by volume of the first layer; and

a second layer formed from material comprising transparent or translucent particles, the second layer having an exposed surface opposite the first layer, the portion of the second layer adjacent the exposed surface comprising substantially all transparent or translucent particles,

particles of the second layer filling at least some of the voids between particles of the first layer, whereby the second layer penetrates into the first layer at the interface between the first and second layers.

2. (Original) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the second layer has a greater thickness than the first layer.

3. (Original) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the pigmented particles are applied and consolidated to generate a design or pattern effect.

4. (Previously Presented) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the pigmented particles comprise particles selected from the group consisting of jaspes, clears, pearl chips, accents, mottled and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the first layer further comprises transparent particles.

6. (Original) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the pigmented particles are larger than the transparent or translucent particles.

7. (Previously Presented) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein the pigmented particles of the first layer and the transparent or translucent particles of the second layer comprise a thermoplastic polymeric material.

8. (Original) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 1, wherein transparent particles are substantially colorless.

Claims 9 to 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A surface covering comprising:

at least two sheets joined together by a welded seam, wherein the seam comprises a first layer formed from material comprising pigmented particles, the pigmented particles comprising a majority by volume of the first layer; and a second layer formed from material comprising transparent or translucent particles, the second layer having an exposed surface opposite the first layer, the portion of the second layer adjacent the exposed surface comprising substantially all transparent or translucent particles, particles of the second layer filling at least some of the voids between particles of the first layer, whereby the second layer penetrates into the first layer at the interface between the first and second layers.

20. (Original) The surface covering of claim 19, wherein the thickness of the first layer of pigmented particles is equal to or less than the thickness of a pigmented layer of the sheets.

21. (Previously Presented) A three dimensional thermoplastic welding rod comprising:

a first layer formed from a first material comprising a plurality of first particles, and

a second layer formed from a second material comprising a plurality of second particles, the second layer having an exposed surface opposite the first layer, the transparency of the second layer being at least 30% greater than the transparency of the first layer; particles of the second layer filling at least some of the voids between particles of the first layer, whereby the second layer penetrates into the first layer at the interface between the first and second layers.

22. (Previously Presented) The three dimensional welding rod of claim 21, wherein the average diameter of the particles forming the first layer are greater than the average diameter of the particles forming the second layer.

23. (Original) The welding rod of claim 21, wherein the second particles are substantially colorless.

24. (Original) The welding rod of claim 21, wherein the second material further comprises a minority by volume of opaque particles.

25. (Original) The welding rod of claim 21, wherein the first layer further comprises a minority by volume of the second particles and the second layer further comprises a minority by volume of the first particles.

26. (Previously Presented) A surface covering comprising:

at least two sheets joined together by a welded seam, wherein the seam comprises a first layer formed from a first material comprising a plurality of first particles, and a second layer formed from a second material comprising a plurality of second particles, the second layer having an exposed surface opposite the first layer, the transparency of the second layer being at least 30% greater than the transparency of the first layer, particles of the second layer filling at least some of the voids between particles of the first layer, whereby the second layer penetrates into the first layer at the interface between the first and second layers.

27. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 26, wherein the average diameter of the particles forming the first layer are greater than the average diameter of the particles forming the second layer.

28. (Original) The surface covering of claim 26, wherein the second particles are substantially colorless.

29. (Original) The surface covering of claim 26, wherein the second material further comprises a minority by volume of opaque particles.

30. (Original) The surface covering of claim 26, wherein the first layer further comprises a minority by volume of the second particles and the second layer further comprises a minority by volume of the first particles.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheets of drawings including changes to Figures 1 and 2 were filed with the previous Amendment and Response. The Examiner states that page 8 of the previous Amendment and Response was missing. This page included the Amendments to the Drawings and is resubmitted herewith, as requested by the Examiner.